

22. ADDITIONAL NESTING SITES OF REDVENTED BULBUL *PYCNONOTUS CAFER* (LINN.)

On 12 June 1989 in the Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, we found a nest of the redvented bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* placed in the trunk of a kadam tree (*Mitragyna parvifolia*). The height of the nesting hole was 3 m from the ground and the depth of the hole was 30 cm. The hole was lined with grass and the nest appeared as cup-shaped and had four eggs, three of which ultimately hatched.

A few days later, one of us (T.S.) observed another nest of the redvented bulbul with three chicks. It was placed inside the deserted nest of a pied myna *Sturnus contra* in a babul tree (*Acacia nilotica*) on one of the dykes in the wetland area.

The nest was located about 8 m above the ground. The cup-shaped nest was made up of grass material and placed in the middle of the pied myna

nest. The chicks of the nest fledged successfully after a week.

Nests of redvented bulbul have been occasionally observed in unusual spots: e.g. Lamba (1976) recorded a nest in a hole in a mud bank; Mundkur (1984) found one on a disused tubelight and Nanjappa (1989) saw one on the floating water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*. Redvented bulbuls generally build their nests in shrubs, hedges, stunted date palms, on slender branches of trees and at the end of a pollarded branch (Ali and Ripley 1983, Vijayan 1978).

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23. INDIAN BLUE CHAT *ERITHACUS BRUNNEUS* (HODGSON) IN BANGALORE

On 15 April 1990, while watching birds in the moist-deciduous habitat overgrown with bamboo *Dendrocalamus* spp. at Muthyala Muduvu (Pearl Valley), in the Madeshwara Range Forest (952 m above msl; 12°41' N, 77°39' E), 38 km south-east of Bangalore, a male Indian blue chat *Erithacus brunneus* (Hodgson) was sighted. The bright chestnut underparts offsetting the dark blue upper parts, white vent, short tail and a distinct white supercilium were unmistakable.

The bird flew down from a *Memecylon umbellatum* (Family: Melastomaceae) bush at the end of a dry stream bed, paused briefly and began hopping around within a metre from the bush, picking

up something from the ground. Then, alerted by our presence, it flew away.

The present sighting is of interest, as except for a female found dead in the balcony of a building in the Indian Institute of Science campus on 9 May 1989 (Shyamal 1989, *Newsletter for Birdwatchers* 39 (9 & 10): 8-9) the Indian blue chat has not been sighted in Bangalore so far. Since the species is known to winter in Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Sri Lanka, the birds seen in Bangalore could have been on passage during their outward migration.

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